

1980

University College and General Education Committee Report #79-80-5: New Sections 8.40.10 - 8.48.22 of the University Manual on General Education Effective September, 1981

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND
Kingston, Rhode IslandFACULTY SENATE
BILLAdopted by the Faculty Senate

TO: President Frank Newman

FROM: Chairperson of the Faculty Senate

1. The attached BILL, titled University College and General Education Committee Report #79-80-5: New sections 8.40.10 - 8.48.22 of the University Manual on General Education Effective September, 1981.

is forwarded for your consideration.

2. The original and two copies for your use are included.
3. This BILL was adopted by vote of the Faculty Senate on May 22, 1980 (date).
4. After considering this bill, will you please indicate your approval or disapproval. Return the original or forward it to the Board of Regents, completing the appropriate endorsement below.
5. In accordance with Section 8, paragraph 2 of the Senate's By-Laws, this bill will become effective on June 12, 1980 (date), three weeks after Senate approval, unless: (1) specific dates for implementation are written into the bill; (2) you return it disapproved; (3) you forward it to the Board of Regents for their approval; or (4) the University Faculty petitions for a referendum. If the bill is forwarded to the Board of Regents, it will not become effective until approved by the Board.

May 27, 1980

(date)


Alvin K. Swonger
Chairperson of the Faculty Senate-----
ENDORSEMENT

TO: Chairperson of the Faculty Senate

FROM: President of the University

1. Returned.
2. a. Approved ✓.
- b. Approved subject to final approval by Board of Regents _____.
- c. Disapproved _____.

6/2/80
(date)
President

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND
Kingston, Rhode Island

FACULTY SENATE

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE AND GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT #79-80-5

April 11, 1980

The University College and General Education Committee recommends:

That the Faculty Senate approve the following new sections* of the University Manual *to be effective for Freshmen entering in September, 1981.*

8.48.10 General Education is that component of the undergraduate curriculum whose purpose is common for all students, as distinguished from the major field of study or electives. The goals of General Education build upon the preceding educational experience of the student and continue to be advanced throughout the undergraduate years and beyond; nevertheless certain goals can be defined as being especially central to the General Education component of the curriculum. Three of these are: 1) Further development of essential English communication abilities upon which advanced studies depend; 2) Experience in five broad subject areas: the arts and literature, social sciences, mathematics, natural sciences and letters; 3) Exposure to a foreign culture.

8.48.11 All baccalaureate students at the University of Rhode Island shall fulfill the University's General Education requirements as outlined in paragraphs 8.48.12 through 8.48.18 (for exception(s) see paragraph 8.48.19). Transfer students may receive General Education credit for courses taught at another institution in so far as such courses are equivalent to courses given General Education credit at the University of Rhode Island.

8.48.12 All baccalaureate students shall be required to take six credits in courses designated by the UCGE Committee as English Communication courses, including at least three credits devoted specifically to courses designed to improve written communication skills. These courses shall be designated as "EC" in the Undergraduate Bulletin.

* Current sections 8.48.10-21 "Graduation" to be renumbered 8.49.10-21

8.48.13 In order to ensure exposure to the subject matter in mathematics, ^{all baccalaureate} students shall take three credits in a course specifically designed to provide training in college level quantitative skills and their application. Courses which are appropriate for fulfilling this requirement shall be designated "M" in the Undergraduate Bulletin.

8.48.14 In order to ensure exposure to the subject matter in fine arts and literature, ^{all baccalaureate} students shall take six credits in courses in the Fine Arts and Literature division. This division shall include courses related to historical and critical study of the arts and literature as well as creative activities. Courses which are appropriate for fulfilling this requirement shall be designated "FA/L" in the Undergraduate Bulletin.

^{baccalaureate} 8.48.15 In order to ensure exposure to the subject matter in social sciences, ^{all} students shall take six credits in courses in the Social Sciences division. This division shall include courses related to the study of the individual (development and behavior) and society. Courses which are appropriate for fulfilling this requirement shall be designated "SS" in the Undergraduate Bulletin.

^{baccalaureate} 8.48.16 In order to ensure exposure to the subject matter in natural sciences, ^{all} students shall take six credits in courses in the Natural Sciences division. All of the physical, chemical and biological sciences are included. Courses which are appropriate for fulfilling this requirement shall be designated "NS" in the Undergraduate Bulletin.

8.48.17 In order to ensure exposure to the subject matter in letters, ^{all baccalaureate} students shall take six credits in courses in the Letters division. This division shall include courses which address fundamental questions about the human condition, human values and ways of communicating these values. Courses which are appropriate for fulfilling this requirement shall be designated "L" in the Undergraduate Bulletin.

8.48.18 In order to ensure exposure to a foreign culture, ^{all baccalaureate} students ~~will be expected to~~ ^{shall} take six credits in a foreign language or culture. This requirement may be satisfied as follows: 1) course work in a language previously studied through the intermediate level (completion of 104 in a living language or 302 in a classic language); 2) demonstrating equivalent competence through examination; 3) course work in a language not previously studied through the elementary level (completion of 102); 4) course work selected from approved foreign culture clusters; 5) study abroad in an approved academic program for one semester. Students who fulfill this requirement through an examination of competence cannot earn course credit toward graduation thereby and should utilize the freedom obtained to apply credits to elective or concentration areas. Courses which are appropriate for fulfilling this requirement shall be designated "FL/C" in the Undergraduate Bulletin.

8.48.19 Individual colleges may decrease the University General Education requirements by reducing the number of credits in any one of the divisions defined in paragraphs 8.48.14-8.48.18 by three credits.

8.48.20 In the Colleges of Arts and Sciences and Human Science and Services and for the BGS program, credits within a student's own field of concentration may not be counted towards General Education requirements. In the other colleges, credits within a student's professional college may not be counted towards General Education requirements. However, courses which serve as pre-requisites for a concentration can be used to fulfill the General Education requirement. Exceptions* to the above may be granted by the UCGE Committee and the Faculty Senate.

8.48.21 Each undergraduate course (~~at level and below~~) approved as appropriate for General Education shall be placed in only one division. Division designations shall be indicated in the Undergraduate Bulletin. Placement of courses within divisions shall be determined by the University College and General Education Committee (UCGEC) ^{and the Faculty Senate} based on recommendations from the colleges. The following criteria shall apply: 1) courses, except those focusing on essential skills, must acquaint students with the modes of thought and methods of inquiry used in the particular discipline while giving due weight to content; 2) courses must serve the needs and interests of students throughout the University and not be designed primarily to satisfy concentration or professional program requirements; 3) courses to be included in any particular division may be drawn from departments other than the one bearing the name of the division; 4) courses with prerequisites will usually not be appropriate for General Education purposes except that a course with a single prerequisite which is itself appropriate for general education may be appropriate; 5) in general, topics, directed study, and other open-ended courses shall be excluded from consideration for General Education; topics for the Honors Colloquium shall be considered for General Education upon request of the Honors Program and Visiting Scholars Committee.

8.48.22 The University College and General Education Committee shall make recommendations to the Faculty Senate regarding implementation and administration of General Education and shall report periodically its evaluation of the General Education Program, including a review of the appropriateness of courses for General Education.

* Informational note: Likely exceptions envisioned at this point by the University College and General Education Committee include 1) B.S. students in the College of Arts and Sciences would be permitted to count natural science courses within their area of concentration but outside their department in fulfillment of the requirement in natural sciences; 2) business majors would be permitted to count designated Management Science courses in fulfillment of the mathematics requirement; 3) students in the "Umbrella" Program in Human Science and Services might be permitted to count certain courses within the program toward General Education. *On May 22, 1980, the Committee was asked to consider: 4) students in the College of Arts and Sciences with two majors would be permitted to apply courses from the second major to fulfill the general education requirements.*